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JAN. NO. 8
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PRINTED IN THE USA
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VALIANT LORE '94
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"EVIL" JON NARTZ REVEALS VALIANT'S 1994 MASTER PLAN

VALIANT VOICE

VOLUME NUMBER ONE
ISSUE NUMBER EIGHT

EDITORIAL

"The People Have Spoken..."

Several months ago, on this page, I left the major decision of whether to do any more enhanced covers up to our readers. At the time I ran that column, we had only done four such covers in our history. But, because of the glut of shoddy, ill-conceived covers crowding the comic marketplace, many of you balked at the mere mention of the word "enhancement".

That being so...the first month's responses to our poll were, needless to say, negative (almost two-to-one against).

But then -- a miraculous thing occurred! VALIANT released the long-awaited ***X-O MANOWAR*** #0 with its incredible full-chromium wrap-around cover by Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti and...

"the crowds went wild!"

Postcards started pouring in ***of this sort of enhancement!*** To make a long story short --

-- the "Ayes" have it!!!

By a large margin, the VALIANT readers support our efforts to make our books (the ones that we think deserve it) just a bit more special.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that a good deal of the positive responses *did* include reservations over the price increase when we do jazz up the cover. Keep in mind that the price increases never seem to cover our actual increased cost, therefore, we make ***less money*** on an enhanced-cover book than on our regular VALIANT titles. But, we feel you deserve the very best we can offer you -- money is no object when it comes to quality.

As I've stated previously, you are *part of the VALIANT Family* and your opinions are valued by us. So, in the future, enhancements will be limited to special issues ("zero" origin books, number ones, etc.) and if we can bring the cost of those special comics down -- we will! You have ***spoken*** -- and we have ***listened***. My thanks to all of you who responded.

Bob Layton
Editor-In-Chief

1994: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

With 1993 winding down, readers can look back upon what may well be the most tumultuous year in the history of comics. With the summer of '93 glutted by the largest number of comics titles and universes ever to hit the stands, VALIANT rose above the competition and maintained a strong position in a very unstable market. We premiered top new titles, such as ***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER, THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE*** and ***SECRET WEAPONS***. If that wasn't enough, we also participated in the biggest crossover in comics history, ***DEATHMATE***. We could contentedly look back on this year's accomplishments, but VALIANT continues to look forward. And, as you will see, 1994 promises to be VALIANT's greatest year ever.

NOVEMBER '93

The excitement begins even before the new year arrives. In November, we premiere our most highly touted series ever -- ***NINJAK***! The super-spy adventure is written by ***ETERNAL WARRIOR*** writer/artist Mark Moretti. The art of ***NINJAK*** is provided by comics' most exciting penciller, Joe Quesada, with Jimmy Palmiotti, and John Ceballero -- the incomparable art team that produced ***X-O MANOWAR*** #0. Not only does ***NINJAK*** revolve around a hero unlike any other in the VALIANT Universe, but it also introduces a major new VALIANT villain: Dr. Silk, leader of the WEBNET crime cartel. The series will have the thrilling feel of a James Bond adventure, but with a definite twist. Not only is Ninjak versed in the martial arts and philosophies of the Far East, but he possesses an analytical, deductive intellect on a par with the legendary Sherlock Holmes! Add to this the blistering pencils of fan-favorite, Joe Quesada, and ***NINJAK*** may be VALIANT's biggest book ever. Also in November, ***X-O MANOWAR*** hits the landmark 25th issue with a bang! This is a definite don't-miss issue because, bound into ***X-O MANOWAR*** #25, is the all new ***ARMORINES*** #0! Not only does this rocking story by Jorge Gonzalez and Jim Calafiore introduce a brand-new team of VALIANT heroes, but it sets the stage for important developments in '94. Rounding out this smashing November line-up is ***THE NEW HARBINGERS*** #26, which takes VALIANT'S original team in an entirely new direction. Writer Maurice Fontenot is joined by superstar penciller Sean Chen and inker Andrew Wendel in revealing what becomes of the Harbinger Foundation after the pivotal battle between Sting and Harada. With entirely new heroes and situations, issue #26 is your opportunity to get in on the start of something big!

DECEMBER '93

In December, VALIANT's first hero once again takes the spotlight in our latest crossover project with Dark Horse Comics, ***MAGNUS/NEXUS***. This two-issue tale, set in the pre-Malev invasion golden age of North Am, is a labor of love for writer Mike Baron and penciller Steve Rude. Currently scripting the adventures of ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG***, Baron first rose to prominence on NEXUS, which he co-created with Rude. These master storytellers now have the unique opportunity to present their cosmic executioner's cataclysmic meeting with the robot fighting hero who thrilled them in their youth. Rude's love for the characters is evident in his graceful yet dynamic illustrations paying great homage to the work of

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER creator, Russ Manning. With breathtaking covers fully painted by "The Dude," ***MAGNUS/NEXUS*** is a riveting read, with quality that transcends the fads and furor of today's comics market. It is truly a modern-day classic. Also scheduled for December release is the much-anticipated ***BLOODSHOT*** #0, written and pencilled by Kevin VanHook, with inks by the legendary Dick Giordano! This story, which features a wrap-around chromium cover by Quesada and Giordano, finally reveals the intimate details of Bloodshot's former life as mobster Angelo Mortalli, his first, confrontational encounter with the Eternal Warrior, and the events which led to Mortalli's transformation into Bloodshot. At last, VALIANT readers will have answers to the questions they've been asking since ***BLOODSHOT*** #1. Meanwhile, in the pages of ***SHADOWMAN***, the masked New Orleans vigilante will become embroiled in a multi-part adventure involving ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE***. The struggle with Master Darque will be one of lasting consequence to both Shadowman and Doctor Mirage as both heroes learn more of their mysterious link with VALIANT'S mystical villain.

JANUARY '94

January of 1994 is ***SHADOWMAN*** Month at VALIANT. First, Shadowman will be guest-starring in ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG***, as Archer attempts to avenge Master Darque's attack on the Temple at Ladakh. Also hitting the stands in January will be the long-awaited ***SHADOWMAN Trade Paperback***, re-presenting ***SHADOWMAN*** #1-4. As with our earlier TPB's that included such bonus books as ***HARBINGER*** #0 and the ***X-O DATABASE***, the ***SHADOWMAN TPB*** will include a new bonus book that, for the moment, must remain a surprise. But the really big news about ***SHADOWMAN*** month is the release of ***SHADOWMAN*** #0! Written and pencilled by Bob Hall, with inks by VALIANT master, Tom Ryder, this incredible story will detail the adventures of the FIRST Shadowman -- one who preceded Jack Boniface -- and break startling new ground in expanding the VALIANT Universe!

FEBRUARY '94

February brings the premiere of a different kind of adventure series -- ***TIMEWALKER***. Plotted by Jon Hartz, with art by Mike Lecke and Paul Acito, ***TIMEWALKER*** chronicles the time-hopping travels of Ivar, the elder immortal brother of Armstrong and Gilad. It's an opportunity to explore the VALIANT Universe at numerous points in its development. From the age of dinosaurs, to beyond the future era of Magnus and Rai, Ivar journeys in an attempt to reunite with his time-lost lover, always with the terrible knowledge that one mistake could disrupt the space-time continuum. Neither as grim as Gilad, nor as whimsical as Armstrong, Ivar may prove to be the most popular of VALIANT'S immortal trio of brothers.

MARCH '94 -- AND BEYOND!

In March, we celebrate the third anniversary of the VALIANT Universe! Beyond this milestone, we have plans laid out for new series, more cross-overs, great storylines and Yearbooks. But we have to keep some surprises up our sleeve, don't we? So there you have it -- the master plan as filled with new additions and changes in the VALIANT Universe that a wild month 1994 the Year of VALIANT Comics!

VALIANT.

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man with a plan: marketing guru Jon Hartz guides the evolution of the Valiant Universe

In the spirit of this month's look into what's upcoming at VALIANT, the VALIANT Voice spoke to one of the chief engineers of the VALIANT Universe, Senior Vice-President Jon Hartz. Jon, the glue of VALIANT's marketing department, will throw his hat into the writing ring with the scripting of TIMEWALKER, scheduled for release in February '96.

With his hand always on the pulse of what's new in the industry, Jon is the perfect guide for a view from within the walls of the VALIANT universe.

VV: *Jon, let's begin with a very broad question...what does VALIANT have planned for the upcoming months?*

JH: Recently, Bob [Layton], Steve [Massarsky] and I sat down and planned out what VALIANT is going to be doing from now until January of 1995. What we've tried to do is, rather than have a million new things inundate the market each month, to focus on two or three really spectacular monthlies.

VV: *Let's focus on the rest of this year.*

JH: In November, which is our second annual VALIANT comics month, *NINJAK* #1, debuts with art by Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti. There's big changes in *HARBINGER*. Maurice Fontenot, Sean Chen and Andrew Wendel will provide drastic changes in both art and storyline. And the *ARMORINES* get a #0 book special preview in *X-O MANOWAR* #25.

December sees the much-anticipated release of *BLOODSHOT* #0. The cover, done by Joe Quesada, will be a full chromium wraparound, reminiscent of *X-O MANOWAR* #0. The interior art will be provided by Kevin VanHook (penciller), who will also write the story, and Dick Giordano (inker). We are tremendously honored to have Mr. Giordano at VALIANT. A legendary talent in this field, he is also the long-time mentor of Bob Layton, which lends added excitement to the project.

In December, *THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE* has its first crossover – with *SHADOWMAN*. This is the ideal matchup because these books are so linked via their respective dealings with Master Darque. Another project is the *MAGNUS/NEXUS* team-up done by Mike Baron and Steve Rude, which will conclude in January.

VV: *Can you give us a few glimpses into the next year?*

JH: Sure. January will be *SHADOWMAN* month. There will be a *SHADOWMAN* appearance in *ARCHER & ARMSTRONG* and the release of *SHADOWMAN* #0. Watch for this one because everything you knew about Shadowman and Jack Boniface is wrong and the truth will be revealed in #0. The book will be written and penciled by Bob Hall with inks by Tom Ryder. Additionally, we will release the *SHADOWMAN* trade paperback which will reprint #1 - 4 with a special premium.

In January the VALIANT Era Card Set #2 will be released by Upper Deck. The cards will cover January '93 through October '93. To celebrate this, every VALIANT book in January will have a card inside. But don't worry – the book won't be polybagged, the card will be.

One of the comic book industry's hardest-working marketing masterminds, VALIANT's deadly beloved "Evil" Jon Hartz

There are going to be four major happenings in February. First, the release of *TIMEWALKER*. This will not be a mini-series, but a regular ongoing series. I will be plotting it and Mike Lecke and Paul Acito will provide the art. This book revolves around Aram and Gilad's brother, Ivar. It won't be your typical time travel story, where he goes back in time to save Abraham Lincoln's life, because we felt that those types of stories have been already been covered. *TIMEWALKER* will tell stories about the VALIANT universe. For instance, the first issue will take place twenty-four hours after all the heroes disappeared in UNITY.

Second, in *SOLAR* #25 the Solar the Destroyer character reappears, and begins a three part epic adventure.

Third, is a big, big surprise, that I'm not allowed to talk about, in *X-O MANOWAR* #28. Without hesitation, every *X-O* fan should pick up this book. I have nothing to do with this, so direct all mail to Jorge Gonzalez.

We will also reprint the *SOLAR* #0 series that Barry Windsor-Smith compiled in issues #1 - #10. It will be in trade paperback form with the last oversized panel offered as a poster.

March marks VALIANT's third year anniversary. We will offer a *SHADOWMAN* yearbook. There will also be a guest appearance in *NINJAK* #5 with *X-O MANOWAR*.

VV: *There are rumors circulating that NINJAK will only be a mini-series...is this true?*

JH: No. *NINJAK* is a full ongoing series. Joe Quesada appears very committed to doing at least the first few issues of the series, and hopefully more. He has tons of ideas that he likes to bounce off [Layton] and Mark [Moretti] about. He's definitely excited about it.

VV: *Will VALIANT Vision continue as part of the VALIANT Universe?*

JH: What we want to do with VALIANT Vision is see what the reaction is. We're making the starter kit as available as possible for as long as possible, so that everyone has an opportunity to see it. Right now we have concrete plans to do *SOLAR* #29, and the *SOLAR THE DESTROYER* story in VALIANT Vision. Then after that what we do will depend on the fan reaction.

VV: *Any clues as to what else is in the works?*

JH: For the rest of the year, I'll just give some hints as to what we're planning, but no specific dates have been set.

There will be a *TUROK* #0, *DR. MIRAGE* #0 and *NINJAK* #0. The Malev war will be resolved in the summer. At least one new book will be launched in the summer. Also, *TIMEWALKER*, *ARCHER & ARMSTRONG* and *NINJAK* will have yearbooks released.

What we've tried to do at VALIANT is keep everything exciting and pull the occasional surprise. So keep reading, because you never know what's next! ✱

VOICE MAIL

Please address all correspondence to:
VALIANT VOICE™
c/o VOYAGER COMMUNICATIONS
275 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10001

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

This month, we continue to answer readers' questions concerning our various titles. But, before we do, we would like to once again call on any members of VALIANT Fan Clubs to write in and let us know you're out there and what you're up to. Furthermore, we're always open to criticism. We get dozens of letters of praise (and we love 'em), but let us know what you don't like and we'll take an unflinching look at your comments.

WHERE DID THEY START?

Dear Valiant Comics,

I just purchased ***THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE*** #1, and I have to say it was great! After reading the Bob Layton interview in *Hero Illustrated* #1, I was anxious to get it when it came out since Bob said, and I quote,"the book has plenty of action and adventure, but it also has romance and comedy and tragedy and gothos." All those combined seem rather interesting and it was. Could you tell me what the following people's first job was as well as their first VALIANT job: Bob Layton, Ken Branch, and Maurice Fontenot. If Bernard Chang's first job in the comic industry wasn't ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG*** #0 and ***H.A.R.D. CORPS*** #5, could you tell me what it was? It was the first comic I understood. You see, I have a learning disability, A.D.D., and although I do fine in school, I have a harder time concentrating than other people on things not interesting to me. But I can focus better than most people on something that's interesting to me. Most comics I read are boring and I don't know what's going on, but I still buy comics each month to read things I don't understand and to invest in. About 20 of the issues in my 95-comic collection are VALIANT! I feel your comics go up in value because you aren't creating 6 new comics a month like Image, and you aren't always making special covers like other publishers do each month. Your characters are also part of the same universe (allowing you to do ***UNITY***.)

Thank You,
Aron Achor
Katonah, N.Y.

*Thanks for the kind words, Aron. Among the many letters we receive, yours really stood out because it gets down to what VALIANT is all about: **story**telling. The fact that you could follow, understand, and enjoy our stories is due to our focus on telling clear stories about people you can care about. Our competitors are scratching their heads, trying to figure out how our books can be so popular. So they keep pulling out new "#1" issues of the same title. They emulate our marketing innovations with "Gold" and "Platinum" editions, "Yearbooks," and "Zero" editions. They even terminate and replace titles, artists, editors and management, hoping to match our consistent level of quality.*

*As for as your questions concerning our artists—Bob Layton and Ken Branch both began their careers working for other publishers. Bob's first inking work at VALIANT was on **MAGNUS #1**. Ken's first VALIANT work was **DOCTOR MIRAGE #1**. Bernard actually did **ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #0** before **H.A.R.D. CORPS #5**, and Maurice began his coloring here on **ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #0**.*

A "SLICK" READER

Dear Don Perlin,

I have been a faithful reader of ***SHADOWMAN*** since issue #4. I believe ***SHADOWMAN*** is the best comic book you produce. A jazz musician that puts a mask on at night and beats people up (*What a concept!*). To me, Shadowman appears to be VALIANT's mysterious character who is still trying to understand his bizarre origin. In issue #17, Armstrong explained to Jack what a "Shadowman" is and why he becomes a different person at night. I wish I could have heard their conversation. I figured that in VALIANT tradition, you could produce a ***SHADOWMAN*** #0. It could possibly include the connection between Jack and Lydia, the Spider Alien from issue #1. I'd also enjoy seeing a ***SHADOWMAN*** trade paperback reprinting issues #1-3. This would especially help me (and many other ***SHADOWMAN*** fans) due to the fact that issues #2 and #3 are rare and hard to find.

On another note, I was wondering why the "slick" paper was not used on issues #16-18. Although the substitute paper is of finer quality than regular plain old paper, I like the way Bob Hall's depiction of Shadowman looks on the "slick" paper.

Sincerely,
Greg Green

*Well, Greg. If you look at the cover story of this very issue of the VALIANT Voice, you'll see that January, 1994 is **SHADOWMAN** month! That month, we'll release the all-new **SHADOWMAN** #0 as well as the **SHADOWMAN** Trade Paperback which, like our previous TPB's, will come with a bonus book. Check out current issues of **SHADOWMAN** for a clue as to what's coming up in **SHADOWMAN #0!** The reason we abandoned the "slick" paper on **SHADOWMAN** is that we had many artists who preferred the matte-finish paper. The stock we have been recently using on these titles is actually better and more costly than the slick paper, but due to overwhelming demand from our fans we will be returning to the slick paper.*

GOLD LOGOS AND E-MAIL

Dear VALIANT,

If I have one criticism, it's that fans like me don't get a chance to acquire special editions, like the gold logos. I know that they're to get retailers to order lots of your stuff, but what the retailers get for free, we have to shell out $100.00 for. We the fans buy the comics, why not find some way to get them to us?

Also, something for y'all to think about would be to consider computer on-line services such as America Online. There are thousands of comic fans who subscribe to these services and log on to discuss comics. I have started a VALIANT folder in the Comics Forum of America Online for the discussion and trading of VALIANT comics. You ought to keep an eye on the possibilities. If any of you do subscribe to America Online, my handle is StrangeMax. E-mail me.

Once again, thanks.

Sincerely,
Bruce F. Strange
Lubbock, Texas

Bruce, Gold Logo books are awarded to those who have done something to publicly support VALIANT (see the Gold Pick of the Month section in our bulletin board of the regular monthly comics). This means that you don't have to pay a cent for a Gold Logo book! Just come up with a clever VALIANT promotion, send us a letter with proof of what you did (like a photo), and we'll be happy to send you your own Gold Logo book. Of course, if retailers should acquire a premium book and decide to sell it, we can't blame them for wanting to make a profit—it's what they're in business for! As for online computer services, we do have editors and creators who monitor such services as CompuServe and America Online. VALIANT Fans may wish to contact Bruce and start an online VALIANT fan club where we could arrange for you to occasionally talk to the creators!

NEWS FLASH

TEAM-UP DREAM

Look out for ***MAGNUS & NEXUS!*** Nexus creators Mike Baron (***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG***) and Steve Rude unite comic superheroes Nexus with retro robot Magnus for a two-part sizzling adventure. The series (set prior to ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER*** #0 & #1) pits Magnus and Nexus against the maniacal "Arkus", who is determined to bring utopia to Northam, whatever the price! Commencing in December, this VALIANT/DARK HORSE reunion promises to be a whopper of a Christmas present. Look for more details in upcoming issues of the VALIANT Voice.

THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF SUMMER...UM, FALL!

Back from the many adventures undertaken this summer by the artists and staff at VALIANT (***DEATHMATE*** but tour, conventions, etc...) the blahs have set in. What to do to kick the life back into our listful crew? Well, kicking the life out of some friends always makes us feel better! So on September 12, 1993 VALIANT takes on Wizard for the first annual Softball Challenge and plans to make cheese paste out of the Big Cheese! If we don't win, we throw the game! Or so they say, of course!... The next issue of the VALIANT Voice will have the low-down on the winners and the expected bench clearing brawl.

PLEASE FORGIVE US MEAGHAN!! PLEASE!!

Yes, we blew it. We are thoughtless and insensitive and downright cretinous. One of our own, our beloved Meaghan Taylor and husband Jim Mastrodomo, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and we did not announce the occasion. Lily Marie Mastrodomo greeted the world on June 27, 1993 with a winning smile and two very compassionate and forgiving parents. We are humbled by our forgetfulness and pray that Meaghan will someday let us live this down (though we doubt it!)

VALIANT TRAVELING ART TOUR

The next two stops on the art tour are:

September 18 - 19
The Dream Factory
[illegible] Main Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851
(203) 845-9077

October 2 - 10
Legions of Superheroes
[illegible] School Street
Everett, MA 02149
(617) 394-9021

BLOODSHOT™

IN DECEMBER, ***BLOODSHOT #0*** EXPLODES ONTO THE COMIC SCENE! FEATURING THIS GORGEOUS WRAP-AROUND COVER BY JOE QUESADA, DICK GIORDANO AND JOHN CEBOLLERO, ***BLOODSHOT #0*** FINALLY REVEALS THE SECRETS OF **BLOODSHOT**'S ORIGIN.

IN A CLASH THAT PRECEDES THE EVENTS OF ***RAIKO***, GANGSTER ANGELO MORTALLI FIRST CONFRONTS *THE ETERNAL* WARRIOR, THEN UNWILLINGLY UNDERGOES THE PROCESS THAT TRANSFORMS HIM INTO THE NANITE-ENHANCED HERO, **BLOODSHOT**.

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY KEVIN VANHOOK, WITH INKS BY COMICS LEGEND DICK GIORDANO, ***BLOODSHOT #0*** WILL MAKE DECEMBER **VALIANT'S** HOTTEST MONTH!

VALIANT

BLOODSHOT © 1993 VALIANT COMICS INC

A View from Within

The most successful summer in our history has seemed to fly right by. Autumn rolling in means three things to me: cooler weather, the beginning of a new school year, and, of course, *football*. This just gives us another excuse to throw a party. The first Monday Night Football Bash (special Sunday night edition), was last Labor Day weekend at Bob's apartment. The wrong team won (I'm a die-hard Oilers fan), but we didn't run out of pizza or beer. You can read all about it in Mark Moretti's "Coach's Corner," in the next Bulletin Board, which will make *this* the first 'column crossover' in VALIANT history. Also, look for news on the upcoming VALIANT-Wizard softball game. We can get together a great all-star line-up, but the question is, can we play ball? We'll see.

Speaking of questions, the one I am most commonly asked is "what exactly does production do?" To explain this, I first have to say that comics, much like cars, are worked on by an assembly line of artists, each performing a very specific task. A page is first pencilled, then inked. Once it is inked, it goes to production. The traditional letterer then hand prints the dialogue (authored by the writer, of course) and draws the word balloons. We in production then match the letters with the inked boards and paste down the balloons to their respective boards. Next, the board is photocopied down to comic book size, and mounted for coloring. The photocopied page is then hand colored with Dr. Martin's water dyes, (not all comics are hand colored). This original colored page, which is different from the inked art, comes back to us, where the words are finally inserted on an overlay. After all of this is done, the editors check it over, and it goes out to be made into film. The film is what we send to our printers to make the books. Every page we print goes through this process. Some of our original art can be acquired in the VALIANT Art Auction. Look for details in this issue of the VALIANT Voice.

This month's "Did You Know" is about ***BLOODSHOT***'s colorist/letterer Jade Moede. In Knob Row, many of the artists have talents other than making comics. Did you know that Jade has appeared in several television commercials, including Pizza Hut and AT&T? He has even appeared in a Japanese commercial (about mothballs). Jade is also the only artist here with his own holiday. The fourth annual *Jade Appreciation Day* will be this Halloween!

Darren Sanchez
Production Manager

Football, Pizza and Friends — What can be more bonding than a Football Party with the VALIANT Gang??? I'd list every one here but there isn't enough room!!!

VALIANT ART AUCTION
®RULES AND REGULATIONS®

This month VALIANT is pleased to offer a select piece of colored original art through auction. This work is mounted and unframed on a comic art board. All proceeds go directly to the artist.

You can place your bid by mailing a letter with your name, address, phone number and the amount of your offer to *VALIANT Art Auction; c/o Voyager Communications Inc.; 275 Seventh Avenue; New York, NY 10001.* Each order form should contain bids for one sale only. Bids of unlimited amounts will not be accepted. All bids must be received by September 15, 1993. VALIANT will not be responsible for error or failure to execute bids. Bids will not be accepted by telephone. The piece will be awarded to the highest bidder above the minimum bid. In the event of duplicate bids, the art work will be *awarded to the bid with the earliest* postmark. *The winning bidder will be* notified and invoiced *within a few days* of the sale. The winning bidder will pay the full purchase price upon receipt of invoice. Unless exempted by law, the purchaser will be required to pay the combined New York State and local sales tax, any applicable compensating use tax of another state, and if applicable, any federal luxury or other tax on the total purchase price. In the event of the winning bidder's failure to pay the full purchase price, the artwork will be awarded to the next highest bidder. The results will be published in the VALIANT Voice.

SHADOWMAN NO.9 COVER
COLORED BY JORGE GONZÁLEZ
MINIMUM BID: $300 U.S. BUCKS

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A BLACK AND WHITE ORIGINAL. THIS IS AN ORIGINAL COLORED WORK.

The conditions of sale, as well as the purchaser's and our respective rights and obligations hereunder, shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. By bidding at an auction, the purchaser shall be deemed to have consented to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state courts of, and the federal courts sitting in, the State of New York.

INQUIRING VOICES

What special abilities or powers does NINJAK™ have?

NINJAK has no superpowers. He is a normal human, but one who has trained his body to a state of physical perfection. NINJAK is also a master of ninjutsu, a group of martial skills that includes jujitsu (hand to hand fighting), bojutsu (staff fighting), and taijutsu (drawing the sword). Perhaps the deadliest aspect of ninjutsu is the ability of the shinobi (or master) to size-up any object as a potential weapon. In addition, NINJAK has a highly analytical and tactical mind, allowing him to foresee various scenarios and prepare for them in advance. His intelligence-gathering abilities include highly developed skills as a computer hacker; in this way he can access data from any source. No matter what eventuality he might find himself in, NINJAK is always prepared.

VALIANT Secret Identity Challenge

I was Phil Seleski's boss at the Edgewater Advanced Fusion Energy Research Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Some people say that my drinking habit contributed to our near-nuclear accident and subsequent shut-down. I hear that Phil and Gayle are doing well since Edgewater closed. I haven't been heard from since.

Who Am I?

Send a postcard with your name, address, and your guess to: VALIANT Voice; Secret Identity Challenge #2; 275 Seventh Ave., 14th Flr.; NY, NY 10001. The first fifty (50) postmarked responses with the correct answer will receive a gift, compliments of VALIANT. All entries must be postmarked no later than October 31st, 1993. Limit one gift per household.

Secret Identity Challenge #1
Answer: TIMBUC

THE THIRD ANNUAL VALIANT ALL-STAR ROCK-AND-ROLL REVUE!

The Valiant All-Star Band! (left to right, clockwise) Rob Johnson, Andy Mieville, Dave Chlystek, Eric Lusk, Andrew Wendel, Phyllis Novin -- and in the center, it left Bob himself! Encore, Encore, guys!!!

If this band is named "22 Brides," what are they doing with two dynamite drummers and a pumpin' percussionist?!?! Nevertheless, this trio was acoustic ecstasy!

Valiant's Phyllis Novin rocks the house with her own musical outfit, "Dancing Doll." Whatta voice there, Phyl! Go girl!!

Queen these queasy tunes, Q! As if you haven't seen enough of this dude, Joe Quesada flips some o' his guitar riffs along with his guitarlands, "Joe's Alibi."

Don't forget the birthday cake! What's a party without munchies? Oakwood Café & Bakery did a delicious catering job. Thanks a million, Esther!

It was a rain-swept Friday night when the crowds began to gather outside of Madison Square Garden for the September 17th performance of the legendary Grateful Dead.

Little did they suspect that directly across the street, in the beautiful grand ballroom of the Southgate Hotel, the biggest musical event in comics history was unfolding.

As I am compelled to do, every year on the anniversary of my birth, I gathered some of the finest musical talent in the comics industry for the monster party of the year. Not only did we present four (count 'em) separate bands that evening, but the ballroom was jammed with hundreds of friends, family, and co-workers.

This birthday was, without a doubt, the most spectacular celebration this business has ever seen.

Opening the event was recording artists "22 Brides", whose acoustical sounds and harmonies kept the audience riveted. Secondly, VALIANT'S own Phyllis Novin, with her band -- "Dancing Doll" rocked the house. (Everyone attending was sent into shock when, normally demure Phyl, started to wail. The woman can really belt out a tune!) Next up was Superstar Joe Quesada with his troupe -- "Joe's Alibi"! (If you thought Q was just a great cartoonist -- you should hear this dude perform!) Lastly, out came the VALIANT ALL-STARS featuring the talents of Andrew Wendel (lead guitar), Eric Lusk (drums), Rob Johnson (keyboards), Dave Chlystek, Phyllis Novin (vocals) and, of course, myself (bass guitar). Also joining in on the big finale was Jade and Maria Beccari.

Needless to say, everyone had a stone groove, dancing late into the night and making the best of my mid-life crisis. And I thought turning forty was going to be a drag..

Bob Layton
Editor-in-Chief

TIMELINE OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE

As the Harbingers have since their their venture, the H.A.R.D. Corps and the various corporate armies have taken defensive positions. The remnants of mankind are huddled near corporate city-states all over the world.

SUMMER 2420

John Hancheck, direct descendant of the founder of the Renaissance, becomes the leader of the renegade Harbingers. Like Harada and his ancestor Toiyo, he too senses the Omega Power

DEC. 2987

John Hancheck manages to destroy Toiyo Harada by transferring his mind into Harada's body. He takes control of the Harbinger Foundation's forces.

FEB. 2990

Abe Sapien, the second Bal, takes the Blood of Heroes from a group of Anti-Gravelon. Hieronbird's blood is given into Grandmother's for safekeeping.

MAY 3216

Ana Kawalski recruits Richard Tate as her successor in the Eye of Geomancers. She tells him of the coming of Unity and begins to train him in the mysteries of Geomancy.

APR. 3988

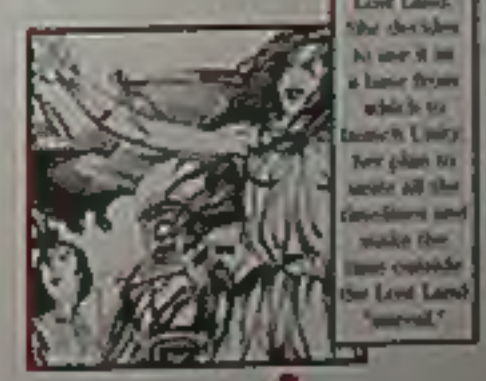
Japan, one of mankind's last strong holds, has isolated itself from the rest of the world completely. It is now covered by a single, continuous bionic dome, an electric network that [illegible] virtually every form of daily life.
H.A.R.D. Corps forces begin a mass exodus from Earth in their remaining ships. Without the H.A.R.D. Corps to maintain order, the remaining city states fall into chaos.

FALL 2900

Due to an unprecedented power surge, the island wide electronic network that encompasses Japan becomes [illegible] and begins thinking and acting independently. The Japanese christen their Godlike mechanical keeper, "Grandmother."

AUG. 3050

APR. 3975


Erica Pierce discovers the Lost Land. She decides to use it as a base from which to launch Unity. Her plan to unite all the survivors and make the base outside the Lost Land "survival."

APR. 3988

CONTINUED MONTHLY IN THE VALIANT VOICE

~COMING THIS MONTH~

OCTOBER SPOTLIGHT ON:

VALIANT VISION™ STARTER KIT
$2.95 U.S./$3.75 Canadian

See your favorite VALIANT characters leap off the pages of their comics. The VALIANT VISION™ STARTER KIT contains one pair of VALIANT VISION™ glasses, an eight-page comic designed in the VALIANT VISION™ process, and a new never-before-seen poster (suitable for framing!), also designed in the VALIANT VISION™ process, penciled by superstar Joe Quesada.

#25

By Fontenot, Simpson, Mays and Bozzoni
$2.50 U.S./$3.50 Canadian

"Twilight of the Eighth Day" - (Pt. 3 of 3) - Harada and King have their big showdown...and only one will emerge as the sole victor! This is the culmination of what the last 24 issues have been leading up to! In this giant-sized story, Maurice Fontenot and Howard Simpson tie up the loose ends and prepare the stage for the new direction this title will take next month.

#5

By St. Pierre, Bolinger and Cavalieri
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

Guest Starring Ninjak - Devil, Livewire and Stormfollow run afoul of the powerful Weirdist crime syndicate, and only Ninjak can save them!

#29

By K. VanHook, Orau, Palmiotti and C. VanHook
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

This special Solar story is so spectacular, it could only be done in VALIANT VISION™. Solar the Destroyer is trapped in a deep space cosmic maze and he needs the aid of his other worldbound persons to escape! This issue is specially designed and colored for use with VALIANT VISION™, however, it can still be read and enjoyed without VALIANT VISION™ glasses.

#7

By Truman, Giovannon and Dunn
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

VALIANT welcomes aboard superstar Tim Truman, as he not only writes but pencils the next three issues of TUROK. His love of "green scaly things" coupled with his vast historical knowledge of Native Americans makes him the ideal character of the adventures of TUROK.

ALSO THIS MONTH:

#18

By Baron, Vosburg and CJ
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

#12

By VanHook, Parlov, Dixon and Jade
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

#18

By VanHook, Holsted and Drake
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

#14

By Michelinie, Quitely, Ramos and Chrystek
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

#32

By Bedard, Calafiore and Cuartas
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

#17

By Ostrander, Calafiore, Bolinger and Cuartas
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

#3

By Layton, Chong, Branch and Fontenot
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

#21

By Hall, Dixon and Cavalieri
$2.50 U.S./$3.15 Canadian

#24

By Gonzalez, Karounos, Ryder and Cavalli
$2.25 U.S./$2.85 Canadian

COURTESY OF:

Next Issue:

It's the Second Annual VALIANT Classics Month, and VALIANT VOICE tells you why this is a November to remember! We chat with Mark Morrell about *NINJAK*, and give you another entertained special.

See you in 30 days...